

STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

FISCAL YEAR 2001 FACTS AND FIGURES Partnership Agreements

Dollar Amount of
State Partnership
Agreements:
\$27,934,954

Dollar Amount of
Regional Partnership
Agreements:
\$5,430,200

The National Endowment for the Arts greatly extends its impact through its partnerships with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six multistate regional arts organizations. Forty percent of the NEA's grant funds are distributed through these Partnership Agreements, helping support local, state, and regional arts activities for children and adults across the nation. A complete listing of Partnership Agreements in FY 2001 is available online at www.arts.gov.

State arts agencies used their federal and state appropriated funds in 2001 to promote access to the best of America's cultural heritage through assistance for arts groups and artists, artist residencies, performances and exhibitions, arts education, programs in the traditional arts, and cultural tourism initiatives among other projects.

KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION BRINGS ARTS INSTRUCTION TO UNDERSERVED YOUTH

The Kansas Arts Commission was established in 1966 to increase the support, awareness, understanding, and availability of the arts in communities across the state. For more than 35 years, the Arts Commission has been helping Kansas value and celebrate the arts, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In FY 2001, the Kansas Arts Commission received \$473,000 from the NEA through its State Partnership Agreement. Matched with \$1.6 million in state funds, the Arts Commission was able to reach 4.2 million Kansas residents and tourists through arts projects involving more than 26,000 artists. These projects generated \$20 million in economic activity for the state.

One of the Commission's initiatives over the last three years has been an arts education program for underserved youth. With partnership funds from the Arts Endowment and additional funding set aside by the governor, the

Commission is helping these young people develop creativity and communication skills through learning in the arts.

One of the activities funded by the Commission in FY 2001 was a summer dance camp for underserved youth conducted by the Friends of Alvin Ailey in Kansas City. Through dance, participants gained social and interpersonal skills as well as artistic ability.

Storytellers, Inc. and Youth Friends of Kansas City, Kansas also received funding from the Arts Commission for arts education activities. These two organizations brought artists to schools for projects involving environmental art, theater, poetry with drumming, and video technology. Poetry in particular has helped youth to express their feelings and discuss topics important to them.

The Kansas Arts Commission plans to use NEA Partnership Agreement funds to expand the program and bring the arts to more youth in the future.

Marini Brown of Wyandotte High School recites her poetry with musical accompaniment as part of a poetry program coordinated by Youth Friends and Storytellers, Inc. of Kansas City and funded by the Kansas Arts Commission. Photo by Bob Burtch



The NEA also awarded Partnership Agreements to six regional arts organizations, created to transcend state boundaries and provide access to a greater variety of arts experiences, especially in underserved areas. One of the ways the Arts Endowment works with the regional arts organizations is through the NEA Regional Touring Program, which provides assistance for the presentation of touring performing artists and companies, especially in underserved communities. In most cases, the evening performances are supplemented by educational programs in the community.

WORLD-RENOWNED TRIO PERFORM IN HOMER, ALASKA

Homer, Alaska is known for its beautiful vistas and halibut fishing, but also has a thriving arts community. Though only approximately 4,000 people live in the town proper, Homer hosts a large number of potters, artists, musicians, and art galleries. The Homer Council on the Arts helps maintain the town's strong commitment to the arts by organizing activities such as the January 2001 residency of the Amadeus Trio, a world-renowned classical music ensemble.

Receiving support from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the NEA Regional Touring Program (through the Western States Arts Federation's TourWest program), the Homer Council worked to increase the audience for classical music, creating a new ticket outlet to reach communities outside Homer that are not usually targeted by the Council. As a result, the Amadeus Trio's concert attracted double the audience of any other classical performance the Council sponsored.

The Amadeus Trio's residency included one public performance and three outreach activities, which included a lecture/demonstration at the local elementary school, a workshop for area musicians, and a post-concert reception. The workshop in instrument care was especially important to the Homer community, where instrument repair and tuning instruction are difficult to obtain. Beyond the residency, the Amadeus Trio's cellist, Jefferey Solow, provided free instruction to local cellists and pianist Marian Hahn spoke to Homer's local music ensemble.

Jenny Carroll, Interim Director of the Council, stated that "the residency was an outstanding success.... We feel we optimized our opportunities to touch many corners of the community with this residency." The contributions of the community and of the artists were reciprocal. Besides indulging the musicians in the pleasures of winter in Alaska, such as dogsled rides, they provided cellos for Solow to use when baggage restrictions imposed by the local airline prevented him bringing his own cello for the concert.



Jeffrey Solow examines instrument belonging to a workshop participant. Photo by Carey Restino, Homer News

The interest and investment by the community created a strong desire in the artists to return to the area to do even more public work. In the words of Timothy Baker, the group's violinist: "Afterwards, I called to tell them how much I enjoyed it. We would be delighted to be considered to go back."